



**COUNTY OF PLACER
AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION**

JOSHUA P. HUNTSINGER
Agricultural Commissioner
Sealer of Weights & Measures

AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION MEMBERS

Tony Aguilar	Larry Jordan
Patricia Beard	William Morebeck
James Brenner	John Nitta
Dan Macon	Stewart Perry
Wayne Vineyard	

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MINUTES

PLACER COUNTY AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION MEETING

MARCH 13, 2017

Members Present: Tony Aguilar, James Brenner, Larry Jordan, Dan Macon, William Morebeck, John Nitta, Wayne Vineyard

Members Absent: Patricia Beard, Stewart Perry

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- I. CALL TO ORDER** – 7:05 pm by Wayne Vineyard
 - II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA FOR, MARCH 13, 2017 AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF JANUARY 9, 2017.** Motion to approve: *Macon / Aguilar / MPUV*
 - III. PUBLIC COMMENT** –
 - William Wauters – Friends of Bear River: invited commission to visit the area set for Centennial Dam project to see the vast area of recreation and wildlife that would be negatively impacted.
 - Michael Garabedian – Sierra Club: Commends Commission for making the right call on the Williamson Act Early Cancellation issue of last year.
 - IV. UPDATE ON SIERRA FOOTHILLS MEAT COMPANY USDA PROCESSING PLANT** – Roger Ingram, Josh Huntsinger
 - Josh shared details of his brief meeting with USDA in Washington D.C. Roger shared a PowerPoint presentation with a few updates to the process of bringing the processing plant to fruition. Information and updates are at www.sierrafoothillsmeat.com.
 - V. PRECIPITATION AND WATER SUPPLY OUTLOOK** – Chip Close, Nevada Irrigation District
 - Chip presented data on the drought and its status. While water supply is greatly improved, State designated drought status remains. Conservation will continue to be the standard – much success in the past from all users, both agricultural and treated. Agricultural water users conserved 15,000AF in 2016, enough to supply all treated water customers for one year. Snow pack is 196% of average. Storms damaged a water flume on the South Yuba canal between Lake Spaulding and Deer Creek Powerhouse. 40' of flume and 150' of footings

in need of repair after landslide. Target date for repair completion is May 1, 2017.

- Josh noted the water update handout from Tony Firenze at PCWA included in the commissioners' meeting packet. PCWA supplies are also well above average and full water deliveries will be made.

VI. REPORTS

A. Agricultural Marketing Program – Josh Huntsinger

- Crop to Tabletop dinner “A Taste of the Seasons – Sunday Supper” March 5, 2017 at Mt Pleasant Hall featured foods made from preserved crops from prior seasons.
- Ag Marketing continues its focus on the top five crops of Placer County.
- “On the ground” marketing is showing much success – looking into more grants to complement county funding.

B. Economic Development Board – Lyndell Grey

- Lyndell recently gave a presentation to the EDB regarding the meat processing plant, which increased interest and created more opportunities for discussion.
- Prop M Transportation Infrastructure Tax failure was disappointment, possible it will be on ballot again in a few years.

C. Livestock and Natural Resources Farm Advisor – Roger Ingram

- No clipping (forage growth) data for March, February forage over 180% of normal.
- Roger announced he is retiring June 29, 2017. Cindy Fake will become the department head. Interviews for a Farm Advisor replacement will occur on March 24 and 25, 2017. The area covered by new advisor will expand to include Yuba and Sutter as well as Placer and Nevada counties.

D. Horticulture and Small Farms Advisor – Cindy Fake absent

- Roger mentioned upcoming workshops for March and April to include a Farm Loan workshop and Beginning Farming Academy.

E. Water Supply Update – Josh Huntsinger

- Nothing added due to earlier presentations.

VII. AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER'S REPORTS – Josh Huntsinger

- Josh shares more details of his trip with CACASA to Washington D.C.
- Questions regarding Centennial Dam can be sent to Josh. BOS has not taken an official position on the project.
- Review of Cannabis Ordinance that was finalized in December.
- Several Sustainable Water meetings held last month – plan does not affect wells above the valley floor and only those that produce more than two acre feet per year

- PCWA still has loans available for water use improvement projects

VIII. ADJOURNMENT– 8:50 p.m.

Next meeting April 10, 2017 at 7:00 p.m.